

LEVANTINE AND EGYPTIAN ARABIC

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I

PRONUNCIATION

A. Consonants.

The most obvious difference between the pronunciation of these dialects, the one cited first by virtually anyone who is asked, is the difference in the consonant /j/, the "jiim" in Classical Arabic, which is pronounced as a hard /g/ in Cairene Egyptian.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
jdiid	gidiid	'new'
ijtimaa9	igtimaa9	'meeting'
intaa9	intaag	'production'
najjaar	naggaar	'carpenter'

Both Levantine and Egyptian render the /q/ ("qaaf") of Classical Arabic as a glottal stop, /'/. (Some dialects in Jordan render it as /g/). However, in a few words, one dialect generally retains the classical pronunciation whereas the other does not. There are only a few of these words, but some are quite frequent in occurrence.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
ba9ti'id	ba9taqid	'I believe'
9alaa'aat	9ilaqaat	'relations'
'araar (qaraar)	qaraar	'decision'
qa9ir	'a9r	'palace'
'aanuun	qanuun	'law'
ista'aal	istaqaal	'he resigned'

In a formalized context, Levantine speakers often use the /q/ pronunciation.

The Levantine dialect preserves the classical pronunciation of the consonant /θ/ (the voiceless 'th') as an educated variant. This is never found in Egyptian. Listed are some common words heard in Beirut; in the Jordanian dialect, this is an extremely common sound and a regular part of the sound system in some areas.

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<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
wiθi', byuuθa'	wisiq, biyusaq	'to trust'
tamθiil (tamsiil)	tamsiil	'representation'
aaθaar (aasaar)	asaar	'antiquities'
aθiina	atiina	'Athens'
maθalan (matalan) (masalan)	masalan	'for example'

The Egyptian dialect allows no more than two consonants to occur together in a cluster. The Levantine dialect allows up to three occasionally, most often when the first two consonants of the cluster are the same.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
byíftikir (byíftkir)	biyiftíkir	'he thinks'
striiH	istarayyaH	'rest (m)'
marrteen	marriteen	'two times'
ímmha	ummáha	'her mother'
šá''tak	ša''ítak	'your apartment'
kullha	kulláha	'all of it (f)'

Note in the examples above that in the Egyptian dialect, when a word which ends in two consonants is suffixed with a pronoun, the vowel which is inserted is stressed. It is not stressed in Levantine.

The Levantine dialect has many words which begin with a two-consonant cluster; this is not permitted in Egyptian.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
druus	duruus	'lessons'
tlaate	talaata	'three'
lHamdílla	ilHamdu lilláah	'thanks be to God'
ktaab	kitaab	'book'

The Egyptian dialect has many words which end in a consonant cluster; this is less common in Levantine (the pronunciation varies in different regions). The final /r/ and /l/ of a consonant cluster are pronounced voiceless in Egyptian. The underlined vowels are usually considered "helping vowels" in Levantine.

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<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
šuy <u>u</u> l	šuy <u>l</u>	'work'
ib <u>i</u> n	ibn	'son'
rub <u>u</u> 9	rub9	'quarter'
ḡuh <u>u</u> r	ḡuhr	'noon'
Hum <u>u</u> r	Humr	'red'
ma <u>ṣ</u> ir	ma <u>ṣ</u> r	'Egypt'
šah <u>i</u> r	šahr	'month'
sah <u>l</u> (sah <u>i</u> l)	sahl	'easy'
bint (bin <u>i</u> t)	bint	'girl'
xubz (xub <u>u</u> z)	9eeš	'bread'

In both dialects an extra vowel is sometimes used between words. This has been traditionally analyzed, however, in a different way in each dialect:

In the Levantine dialect, if a word ends in a consonant and the next word begins with two consonants (causing three consonants in a row), the vowel /i/ is inserted, attached to the second word.

In Egyptian, the vowel /i/ is added after a word which ends in two consonants when the next word begins with a consonant (to prevent three consonants from coming together). The vowel is not heard as clearly in Egyptian, however, and is usually not written as part of a word. Note that when this helping vowel is used, the next word may begin with a consonant cluster, but this is the only case in which this happens in Egyptian.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
bint ikbiire	bint ⁱ kbiira	'a big girl'
laazim in <u>ṣ</u> uufu	laazim ni <u>ṣ</u> uufu	'We must see him.'
tlat isniin	talat siniin	'three years'
naas iktaar	naas kitiir	'many people'
ba9id bukra	ba9d ⁱ bukra	'the day after tomorrow'
ilbint fima <u>ṣ</u> ir	ilbint ⁱ fma <u>ṣ</u> r	'The girl is in Egypt.'

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B. Vowels.

Most vowels have a tendency to be slightly higher and more clipped in Egyptian pronunciation than in Levantine. This gives the effect of a rapid, almost staccato rhythm in Egyptian, and a comparatively slower, sometimes even languid pace in Levantine.

The short /a/ or /u/ in Classical Arabic and Levantine is frequently a short /i/ in Egyptian.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
9inwaan (9unwaan)	9inwaan	'address'
Hajj	Higg	'pilgrimage'
safaara	sifaara	'embassy'
aswad	iswid	'black'
waaHad (waaHid)	waaHid	'one'
lubnaan	libnaan	'Lebanon'
raaHit (raaHat)	raaHit	'she went'

The final /a/ (which is usually the feminine ending) is retained in its classical pronunciation in Egyptian. In Levantine, it is often pronounced as /e/, except in words which contain emphatic or back consonants or /r/.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
waaHde (waHde)	waHda	'one'
huwwe	huwwa	'he'
humme	humma	'they'
jamiile	gamiila	'beautiful'
bayda (beeda)	beeda	'white'
fursa	fursa	'opportunity'
saa9a	saa9a	'hour'

The short /u/ is the same in both dialects, except for the suffix meaning 'him' or 'his'. In some dialects of Levantine, this latter vowel is /o/.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
šufto (šuftu)	šuftu	'I saw him.'
inno	innu	'that he'
beeto	beetu	'his house'

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<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
minšaano	9ašaanu	'for him'
ismo	ismu	'his name'

In Egyptian, a long vowel is shortened if the word contains a consonant cluster later; it is usually retained long in Levantine.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
waaHde (waHde)	waHda	'one'
saafarna	safirna	'we traveled'
tmaanye	tamanya	'eight'
raayHa	rayHa	'going (f)'
ṣaaHbi	ṣaHbi	'my friend'

In Egyptian, long vowels are affected by the addition of certain suffixes which begin with a consonant. The vowel is shortened, and sometimes the quality also changes.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
nšuufkum	nišufku	'We see you (p).'
loonha	lunha	'her color'
jaabhum	gabhum	'He brought them.'
bišīilhum	biyšīlhum	'He carries them.'
beetna	bitna	'our house'

In the Levantine dialect, the definite article /il-/ (/l-/) is transposed to /li-/ if followed by a word which begins with a consonant cluster.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
likweet	ilkuweet	'Kuwait'
liktaab	ilkitaab	'the book'
liwlaad	ilwilaad	'the children'
likbiir	ilkibiir	'the big one'

In the Levantine dialect, the position of a vowel and a consonant of a word stem are switched under certain conditions:

This switching occurs in the 'they' and 'you (p)' forms of the imperfect tense, Form I verb (before the final vowel) unless the stem vowel of the word is /a/ (as in /byišrab/). Note the difference in stress also; it occurs before the switch.

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(Levantine Base)	Levantine	Egyptian	
byuktub	byúkutbu	biyiktíbu	'they write'
byudrus	byúdursu	biyidrísu	'they study'
btudrus	btúdursu	bitidrísu	'you (p) study'
btuṣruf	btúṣurfu	bitiṣrífú	'you (p) spend'
byiṣrab	byíṣrabu	biyiṣrábu	'they drink'

It also occurs with the suffix 'him (or 'it') when this is added to an imperfect tense, Form I verb. This is compared to a suffix which begins with a consonant.

(Levantine Base)	Levantine	Egyptian	
byuṣkur	byúṣukro (byuṣkúrha)	biyuṣkúru (biyuṣkúrha)	'he thanks him' ('he thanks her')
batruk	bátoruko (batrúkhum)	batrúku (batrúkhum)	'I leave him' ('I leave them')
byuṣruf	byúṣurfu (byuṣrúfha)	biyiṣrífú (biyiṣrífha)	'he spends it' ('he spends it (f)')

Nouns which have a consonant cluster before the feminine suffix undergo this switch before adding possessive suffixes which begin with a vowel. These are compared to a suffix which begins with a consonant.

(Levantine Base)	Levantine	Egyptian	
numra	númírto (numrítha)	nimrítu (nimrítha)	'his number' ('her number')
furṣa	fúristo fúristak fúristi (furṣítha)	fursítu fursítak fursíti (fursítha)	'his opportunity' 'your (m) opportunity' 'my opportunity' ('her opportunity')

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C. Stress.

Both dialects follow the same rules for stress except that Levantine Arabic can have stress on the third-to-last syllable (it stresses the word before its last consonant cluster). Egyptian can have stress only as far back as the second-to-last syllable when a word contains a consonant cluster (otherwise the stress can be farther back).

Examples of different stress:

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
byí'daru	biyi'dáru	'they are able'
mádrase	madrása	'school'
tfáḡḡali	itfaḡḡáli	'Go ahead (f).'
tínzali	tinzíli	'you (f) go down'

Examples of same stress:

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
rúHna	rúHna	'we went'
ṭálabu	ṭálabu	'they requested'
9árabi	9árabi	'Arabic'
ḡárabat	ḡárabit	'she hit'

In both dialects stress falls on the long vowel in a word. In Levantine, if a word has more than one long vowel, stress falls on the second one. In Egyptian, only one long vowel is allowed, so all but the last are shortened. (The result is the same stress.)

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
9alaa'áat	9ilaqáat	'relations'
šaa'fúuni	šafúuni	'They saw me.'
ta'aaríir	ta'aríir	'reports'
mabsuutíin	mabsuṭíin	'happy'

D. Intonation.

Differences in intonation do not interfere with understanding between these two dialects, but it is worth noting that the Levantine dialect employs a far greater intonation range than does Egyptian. Levantine, especially Syrian, sounds higher pitched in general, and this is especially noticeable in questions and exclamations. For emphasis, Levantine speakers use a falsetto, much like a restrained loud voice. Egyptian intonation is lower and more even.

II

WORDS AND AFFIXES

A. Verbs.

1. The Progressive Markers. In the Levantine dialect, the participle /9am-/ may be used with an imperfect which has the prefix /b-/ (/bi-/). /b-/ refers to uncompleted action (including habitual or sometimes future), while /9am-/ refers to on-going action, and is usually used together with /b-/.

In Cairene Egyptian, /b-/ (/bi-/) is used for both meanings. (In Upper Egypt, /9am-/ is used for both). /b-/ and /9am-/ are never used together.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
šuu 9am-bti9mal	biti9mil eeh	'What are you doing?'
9am-byiktub	biyiktib	'He is writing.'

The Levantine dialect (in Lebanon) has changed the /b-/ prefix to /m-/ (/mi-/) in the 'we' form of the verb.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
minruuH	binruuH	'we go'
minkuun	binkuun	'we are'

In the Levantine dialect, the 'he' and 'they' form of the imperfect verb loses the /y-/ if the verb has a long vowel or a doubled consonant.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
bizuur	biyzuur	'he visits'
bifakkir	biyfakkar	'he thinks'
bi'uulu	biy'uulu	'they say'
bisaafru	biysaafru	'they travel'
bišii1	biyšii1	'he carries'

2. The Future Marker. In Levantine, the future particle is /raH-/; in Egyptian, it is /Ha-/ (/H-/). (It is used less often in Levantine than in Egyptian).

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
raH-asaafir bukra	H-asaafir bukra	'I'll travel tomorrow.'
eemta raH-yirja9	Ha-yirga9 imta	'When will he return?'
bnimšī ssaa9a waHde	Ha-nimšī ssaa9a waHda	'We'll leave at one o'clock.'

3. The Negative. In both dialects the negative has two forms, one for equational sentences and one for verbs.

In Levantine, the negative for **equational** sentences is /miš/ (/muu/) or a set of conjugated words (most common in Lebanon). In Egyptian, it is /miš/. Egyptian also uses /miš/ to negate the future tense.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
manno 'he is not'	miš	
mannha 'she is not'		
mannhum 'they are not'		
mannak 'you (m) are not'		
mannik 'you (f) are not'		
mannkum 'you (p) are not'		
manni 'I am not'		
manna 'we are not'		
huwwe miš hoon. (huwwe manno hoon.)	huwwa miš hina	'He is not here.'
miš ma9i	miš ma9aaya .	' <u>It's</u> not with me.'
manna faadyiin bukra (miš faadyiin bukra)	miš faadyiin bukra	'We're not free tomorrow.'
maa raH-yiji	miš Ha-yiigi	'He will not come.'

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In Levantine, the negative for verbs is the word /maa/ placed before the verb. In Egyptian, the negative is a prefix-suffix combination, /ma-/ /-š/, placed around the verb.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
maa raaH	ma-raH-š	'He did not go.'
maa kaan ma9i	ma-kan-š ma9aaya	'He was not with me.'
maa 9am-byiktub	ma-byiktíb-š	'He is not writing.'
maa truuH	ma-truH-š	'Don't go (m).'
maa trúuHi	ma-truHíi-š	'Don't go (f).'

In the Egyptian dialect, when a pronoun suffix is used, some forms are changed when enclosed in a negative structure. Note that short vowels in the suffixes are also lengthened.

<u>Levantine</u>	(<u>Egyptian</u> <u>Base</u>)	<u>Egyptian</u>	
maa šúfto	(šúftu)	ma-šuftuhúu-š	'I did not see him.'
maa šúftik	(šúftik)	ma-šuftikíi-š	'I did not see you (f).'
maa šúftkum	(šuftúku)	ma-šuftukúu-š	'I did not see you (p).'
maa šáafni	(šáfni)	ma-šafníi-š	'He did not see me.'
maa byiktúblo (biyiktíblu)		ma-byiktíblúu-š	'He does not write to him.'
maa byiktúbilha (biyiktíbláha)		ma-byiktíblaháa-š	'He does not write to her.'

This negative is used, in both dialects, with some non-verbs. In Egyptian, it is also used with personal pronouns and a few nouns.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
maa 9indi	ma-9andii-š	'I do not have'
maa 9indha	ma-9andahaa-š	'she does not have'

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<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
maa 9indo	ma-9anduu-š	'he does not have'
maa fii	ma-fii-š	'There isn't any.'
ismo miš aHmad	ma-smuu-š aHmad	'His name is not Ahmad.'
huwwe miš hoon (manno hoon)	ma-huwvaa-š hina	'He is not here.'

(The use of this negative with nouns and personal pronouns in Egyptian is optional, and not as common as the use of /miš/.)

4. The Passive. The passive is marked in the Levantine dialect by the syllable /in/ prefixed to the perfect tense and infixed in the imperfect tense (Form VII in Classical Arabic). In Egyptian, the syllable is /it/.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
in9amal	it9amal	'It was done.'
in9arbat	it9arabit	'She was hit.'
raH-yinkisir (raH-yiniksir)	Ha-yitkisir	'It will be broken.'

B. Nouns.

1. The Dual. In both dialects, most nouns are dualized but a few are not. In Egyptian, there are more which are not. These will have to be learned as separate items; it is a matter of style.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
rijjaaleen	itneen riggaala	'two men'
m9allmeen	itneen mu9allimiin	'two teachers'
duulaareen	itneen dulaar	'two dollars'
liirteen	itneen liira	'two pounds' (money)

C. Pronouns.

1. Personal Pronouns. The Levantine word for 'we' is /niHna/; the Egyptian form is /iHna/. The Egyptian word for 'they' is /humma/; the Levantine word is /humme/ or /hinne/.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
niHna min hoon	iHna min hina	'We are from here.'
hinne min lubnaan	humma min libnaan	'They are from Lebanon.'

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2. Pronoun Objects. In Egyptian, the object pronoun for 'you (p)' has been changed to /-ku/; in Levantine, it is /-kum/ (/--kun/). The object pronoun for 'them' in Egyptian is /-hum/; in Levantine, it is /-hum/ or /-hun/.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
šúftkun	šuftúku	'I saw you (p).'
raaH la 9índkun	raaH 9andúku	'He went to your house.'
ba9atilkum šii	ba9atluku Haaga	'Did he send you any-thing?'
šúfthun 'abl išwayy	šuftúhum 'abl ⁱ šwayya	'I saw them a little while ago.'
a9a má9hun	giH ma9áahum	'He came with them.'

When both the direct and indirect objects are used with a verb, the Levantine dialect uses the word /iyyaa-/ with the direct object. The Egyptian dialect suffixes both pronouns to the word, the direct object first.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
jibli yyaa	gibhúuli	'Bring it (m) to me.'
mumkin tištriili yyaaha	mumkin tištiriháali	'Can you buy it (f) for me?'
maa jibtillak iyyaahum	ma-gibtuhumlák-š	'I didn't get them for you.'

D. Adjectives.

1. Agreement. In both dialects, adjectives may have the /-iin/ masculine plural suffix, or an irregular plural form. In Levantine, they may take the /-aat/ feminine plural suffix as well (this is especially common in Jordanian); this is not used in Egyptian.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
m9allmaat Hilwaat (Hilwiin)	mu9allimaat Hilwiin	'pretty teachers (f)'
banaat jamillaat (jamiiliin)	banaat gumaal	'beautiful girls'

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2. Diminutive. The Egyptian dialect has used the Classical Arabic diminutive pattern for some adjectives. The most common are listed. They take the /-a/ and /-iin/ suffixes.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
ʒyiir	ʒuʔayyar	'small'
'ariib	'urayyib	'near'; 'soon'
'aliiil	'ulayyil	'few'
rafiil9	rufayya9	'thin'
'aʕiir	'uʕayyar	'short'

E. Numbers.

1. The Numbers 1-10.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
waaHad, waHde	waaHid, waHda	'one'
tneen, tinteem	itneen	'two'
tlaate	talaata	'three'
arba9a	arba9a	'four'
xamse	xamsa	'five'
sitte	sitta	'six'
sab9a	sab9a	'seven'
tmaanye	tamanya	'eight'
tis9a	tis9a	'nine'
9ašra	9ašara	'ten'

Note that the Levantine dialect has two forms for 'one' and 'two'; the Egyptian dialect has two forms only for the number 'one'.

Both dialects use a 'short form' numeral before counted nouns.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
tlat marraat	talat marraat	'three times'
arba9 marraat	arba9 marraat	'four times'
xamis marraat	xamas marraat	'five times'
sitt marraat	sitt ⁱ marraat	'six times'
sabi9 marraat	saba9 marraat	'seven times'

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<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
tman marraat	taman marraat	'eight times'
tisi9 marraat	tisa9 marraat	'nine times'
9ašar marraat	9ašar marraat	'ten times'

2. The Teens. There are slight differences in the form of the teen numbers. The Levantine forms are more abbreviated, and keep the /9/; they have the extra syllable /-ar/ before counted nouns.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
Hqa9š	Hiqaašar	'eleven'
ṭna9š	iṭnaašar	'twelve'
tlatṭa9š	talatṭaašar	'thirteen'
arba9ṭa9š	arba9ṭaašar	'fourteen'
xamiṣṭa9s	xamaṣṭaašar	'fifteen'
siṭṭa9š	siṭṭaašar	'sixteen'
sabi9ṭa9š	saba9ṭaašar	'seventeen'
tmanṭa9š	tamanṭaašar	'eighteen'
tisi9ṭa9š	tisa9ṭaašar	'nineteen'

3. The Hundreds. The Egyptian dialect uses a special vowel pattern for the numerals which are compounded with the word 'hundred'; the Levantine dialect uses the "short form" numeral.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
tlatmiyye	tultumiyya	'300'
arba9miyye	rub9umiyya	'400'
xamismiyye	xumsumiyya	'500'
sittmiyye	suttumiyya	'600'
sabi9miyye	sub9umiyya	'700'
tmanmiyye	tumnumiyya	'800'
tisi9miyye	tus9umiyya	'900'

Both dialects use the form /miit/ before a counted noun.

Other number forms are approximately the same in both dialects.

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III

PHRASES AND SENTENCES

A. Question Words. Some question words have a very different form in the two dialects. They are also placed in a different part of the sentence. In the Levantine dialect, question words regularly come at the beginning of a sentence. In Egyptian, the question words regularly come at the end of a short or simple sentence, and at the beginning of a sentence only if it is long or complex.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
šuu	eeh	'what'
leeš	leeh	'why'
eemta (eemtiin)	imta	'when'
miin	miin	'who'
kiif	izzaay	'how'
ween (feen)	feen	'where'
kam	kaam	'how many'
'addeeš	'add ⁱ eeh	'how much'
šuu ismak	ismak eeh	'What is your name?'
leeš ruHit	ruHt ⁱ leeh	'Why did you go?'
eemta raH-tiji	Ha-tiigi imta	'When will she come?'
miin inte	inta miin	'Who are you?'
kiif 9milto	9amaltu zzaay	'How did you do it?'
kiifak	izzayyak *	'How are you?'
ween saakin	saakin feen	'Where do you live?'
'addeeš biddak	9aawiz 'add ⁱ eeh	'How much do you want?'
'addeeš šarlak hoon	ba'aalak 'add ⁱ eeh hina	'How long have you been here?'

*Note that the form of /izzaay/ was changed to /izzayy-/ with the suffix. The three forms are /izzáy yak/, /izzáy yik/, /izzayyúkum/.

LEVANTINE AND EGYPTIAN ARABIC

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
'addeš issaa9a	issaa9a kaam	'What time is it?'
miin irrijjaal	miin irraagil	'Who is the man who is
illi huniik	illi hinaak	over there?'
leeš maa saafart	leeh ma-safirt-iš	'Why didn't you travel
ba9d idduhur	ba9d idduhr	in the afternoon?'

The Egyptian dialect also uses /išmi9na/ as a question word. This is derived from /eeš ma9na/, 'What is the meaning?', and since it is very casual in style, is best translated 'How come?'. It occurs only at the beginning of a sentence.

kiif jara	išmi9na	'How come?'
kiif inno heek	išmi9na kida	'How come <u>it is</u> like that?'
kiifta maa ruHtu	išmi9na ma-ruHtuu-š	'How come you (p) didn't go?'

B. The Demonstrative Pronouns. The demonstrative pronouns in the Levantine dialect and the Egyptian dialect are different in form (the Egyptian is an abbreviated form of the words). Levantine has a separate set of demonstrative pronouns which occur alone; with a noun, the word /ha-/ is prefixed to the definite article. Egyptian has the same words for both uses, and does not differentiate between 'this' and 'that'.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
haada (hayda)	da	'this (m)'
haadi (haydi)	di	'this (f)'
hadool (hawdi) (haydool)	dool	'these'
hadaak (haydaak)	da	'that (m)'
hadiik (haydiik)	di	'that (f)'
hadulaak (hayduliik)	dool	'those'
šuu hayda	eeh da	'What is this (m)?'
haydi binti	di binti	'This is my daughter.'
haydool iwlaadi	dool wilaadi	'These are my children.'

LEVANTINE AND EGYPTIAN ARABIC

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
harrijjáal	irráagil da	'this man'
hassaa9a	issaa9a di	'this watch'
hannaas	innaas dool	'these people'
bi haššaari9	fiššaari9 da	'in that street'
bi haṭṭayyaara	fiṭṭayyaara di	'in that airplane'
lyoom	innahárda	'today'

The Egyptian dialect has alternate sets of forms which are rather casual in style; they are not as common as the forms above.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
	dawwa(t)	'this (m)'
	diyya(t)	'this (f)'
	doola(t)	'these'
	dukha	'that (m)'
	dikha	'that (f)'
	dukhum	'those'
liktaab haada	ilkitaab dawwa	'this book'
ilbint haadi	ilbint ⁱ diyyat	'this girl'
innaas hadool	innaas doola	'these people'
	innaas dukhum	'those people'
hayy aHla	diyyat aHla	'This (f) is prettier.'
haydi aHla	dikha aHla	'That (f) is prettier.'

In the Egyptian dialect, a helping vowel may be used before the demonstrative pronoun (because it acts like a suffix). Sometimes this helping vowel takes the stress. Some words which end in a short vowel also have the vowel lengthened and stressed before the demonstrative pronoun. These words are not many, but they are relatively frequent and are difficult for non-Egyptians to comprehend the first few times.

LEVANTINE AND EGYPTIAN ARABIC

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
bi halwá'it	filwa't ^í da	'at this time'
haššáhir	iššahr ^í da	'this month'
hassáne	issanáa di	'this year'
halmárra	ilmarráa di	'this time'
halléele	illiláa di	'tonight'
binnísbe ílo	bi nisbáa lu	'with regard to him'
bi hal Haale	filHaláa di	'in this case'
bi haṭṭaríi'a	biṭṭari'áa di	'in this manner'

C. Past Time. To express 'last' as in 'last week', 'last month', etc., the Levantine dialect usually uses the classical form /maaḍi/. The Egyptian dialect uses only the phrase /illi faat/, literally, 'which has passed'. /maaḍi/ is an adjective, /faat/ is a verb; both must agree with the subject.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
iššahr ilmaaḍi	iššahr illi faat	'last month'
issane lmaaḍye	issana lli faatit	'last year'
il'usbuu9 ilmaaḍi	il'usbuu9 illi faat	'last week'
issniin ilmaaḍye	issiniin illi faatu	'the past years'
ilxamiis ilmaaḍi	ilxamiis illi faat	'last Thursday'

IV

VOCABULARY

There are many vocabulary words which differ between these two dialects. Those which are best illustrated in a sentence context are presented here. Other vocabulary words are listed in the Glossary.

A. Verbs.

(1) 'to become' 'to happen'

The Levantine and Egyptian dialects use different words to express these meanings. In Levantine, both meanings are expressed with the word /šaar/. In Egyptian, /ba'a/ is used to mean 'become' and /Hasal/ or /gara/ to mean 'happen'.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
šaar muhimm	ba'a muhimm	'He became important.'
šarlo yoomen hoon	ba'aalu hina yomeen	'He has been here two days.' (lit., 'it has become for him')
'addeš šarlak hoon	ba'aalak 'add ¹ eeh hina	'How long have you been here?' ('How long has it become for you?')
šuu šaar	eeh illi Hasal	'What happened?'
šarlo šii	garaalu Haaga	'Did something happen to him?'
maa šarlo šii	ma-garaluu-š Haaga	'Nothing happened to him.'
šuu šarlak	garaalak eeh	'What happened to you?'
haššii maa šaar	da ma-Hasal-š	'That didn't happen.'

(2) 'to remain' 'to stay'

The Levantine dialect usually uses /ba'a/ to mean 'remain' or 'stay'; the Egyptian dialect uses /'a9ad/, literally, 'to sit'. Both dialects use /nizil/ idiomatically.

LEVANTINE AND EGYPTIAN ARABIC

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
'addeeš raH-tib'a hoon	Ha-tu'9ud hina 'add ¹ eeh	'How long will you stay here?'
b'iit fil'uteel yoom	'a9adt fil'uteel yoom	'I stayed in the hotel one day.'
baa'i 9inna	'aa9id 9andína	'He is staying at our house.'
nizil bi uteel	nizil fi uteel	'He stayed in a hotel.'

(3) 'to want'

The Levantine dialect uses the noun /bidd-/ (/badd-/) with possessive suffixes to express 'to want' (literally 'by his desire', 'by my desire', etc.) or, in questions, the verb (biriid/. The Egyptian dialect uses an active participle which has two variations, /9aawiz/ and /9aayiz/.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
šuu biddak	9aawiz eeh	'What do you (m) want?'
baddi yyaahum	9awizhum	'I want them.'
maa biddna šii	mis 9ayziin Haaga	'We don't want anything.'
biddha yyaa	9ayzaa	'She wants it (m).'
'addeeš btriidi	9ayza 'add ¹ eeh	'How much do you (f) want?'
baddi aruuH	9aayiz aruuH	'I want to go.'

(4) 'to give'

The Levantine dialect uses the classical verb /a9ta/; the Egyptian dialect uses /idda/. In both dialects, this verb can be used with direct or indirect object pronouns.

LEVANTINE AND EGYPTIAN ARABIC

Levantine

	Sg.	Pl.		Sg.	Pl.
m	a9ʔa		m	bya9ʔi	
3		a9ʔu	3		bya9ʔu
f	a9ʔat		f	bta9ʔi	
m	a9ʔeet		m	bta9ʔi	
2		a9ʔeetu	2		bta9ʔu
f	a9ʔeeti		f	bta9ʔi	
1	a9ʔeet	a9ʔeena	1	ba9ʔi	mna9ʔi

Egyptian

	Sg.	Pl.		Sg.	Pl.
m	idda		m	biyiddi	
3		iddu	3		biyiddu
f	iddit		f	bitiddi	
m	iddeet		m	bitiddi	
2		iddeetu	2		bitiddu
f	iddeeti		f	bitiddi	
1	iddeet	iddeena	1	baddi	biniddi

Levantine

a9ʔeeto maʕaari

maa a9ʔeeto ʕii

mumkin ta9ʔiini
ʕwayy

raH-na9ʔiik hayda

ʕuu a9ʔaak

'addees raH-
ya9ʔiik

Egyptian

idditlu filuus

ma-idditluu-ʕ
Haaga

mumkin tiddiini
ʕwayya

Ha-niddiik da

iddaalak eeh

Ha-yiddiik 'addⁱ
eeh

'I gave him money.'

'I didn't give him
anything.'

'Can you give me some?'

'We'll give you that.'

'What did he give you?'

'How much will he give
you?'

LEVANTINE AND EGYPTIAN ARABIC

(5) 'to come'

This verb is from the same root in both dialects, but its forms have diverged so much that frequently they are difficult to understand.

Levantine

	Sg.	Pl.		Sg.	Pl.
m	aja		m	byiji	
3		aju	3		byiji
f	ajat		f	btiji	
m	jiit		m	btiji	
2		jiitu	2		btiju
f	jiiti		f	btiji	
1	jiit	jiina	1	baji	mniji

Egyptian

	Sg.	Pl.		Sg.	Pl.
m	gih		m	biyiigi	
3		gum	3		biyiigu
f	gat		f	bitiigi	
m	geet		m	bitiigi	
2		geetu	2		bitiigu
f	geeti		f	bitiigi	
1	geet	geena	1	baagi	biniigi

The Egyptian dialect has made some changes in the negative as well.

(Levantine)

maa aja
maa ajat
maaaju

maa jiit
maa jiiti
(etc.)

Egyptian

m	ma-gaa-š	
3		ma-guu-š
f	ma-gat-š	
m	ma-git-š	
2		ma-gituu-š
f	ma-gitii-š	
1	ma-git-š	ma-ginaa-š

LEVANTINE AND EGYPTIAN ARABIC

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
aju bakkiir	gum badri	'They came early.'
jiit má9o	geet ma9aa	'I came with him.'
byiji ktiir	biyiigi kitiir	'He comes often.'
leeš maa aja	ma-gaa-š leeh	'Why didn't he come?'
leeš maa (i)jiit	ma-git-š leeh	'Why didn't you (m) come?'
ba9d maaaju	lissa ma-guu-š	'They still haven't come.'
maa raH-niji	miš Ha-niigi	'We won't come.'

(6) 'look out' 'take note'

To express 'look out', 'watch out', 'pay attention', the Levantine dialect uses the phrase /diir baalak/; the Egyptian dialect uses the phrase /xud baalak/. The active participle forms are also frequently used, although Levantine uses the participle /mintibih/ as well.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
diir baalak minno	xud baalak minnu	'Watch out for him.'
laazim itdiir baalak	laazim taaxud baalak	'You have to be careful.'
miš daayir baalo	miš waaxud baalu	'He isn't paying attention.'
miš daayra baalha	miš waxda balha	'She isn't paying attention.'
maa kunt mintibih	ma-kunt-iš waaxud baali	'I wasn't paying attention.'
daayir baalak	waaxud baalak	'Are you following? [the conversation]
	waaxud baal siyadtak	'Are you following, sir?'

B. Prepositions. Some prepositions differ in form and some in usage between these two dialects.

(1) /ma9a/

In Egyptian, /ma9a/ changes its base form to /ma9aa-/ when suffixed. Note that the 'I' form is irregular.

LEVANTINE AND EGYPTIAN ARABIC

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
má9o	ma9áa	'with him'
má9ha	ma9áaha	'with her'
má9hum	ma9áahum	'with them'
má9ak	ma9áak	'with you (m)'
má9ik	ma9áaki	'with you (f)'
má9kum	ma9áaku	'with you (p)'
má9i	ma9áaya	'with me'
má9na	ma9áana	'with us'

The Egyptian dialect has an alternate form for 'with', /wayya/. It is not used as often, and is very informal in style. (/wiyya/ is occasionally heard in the Levantine dialect, in a few set phrases.)

Egyptian

wayyáa	'with him'
wayyáaha	'with her'
wayyáahum	'with them'
wayyáak	'with you (m)'
wayyáaki	'with you (f)'
wayyáaku	'with you (p)'
wayyáaya	'with me'
wayyáana	'with us'

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
ta9aal ma9na	ta9aala ma9aana	'Come (m) with us.'
raH-aruuH ma9hum	H-aruuH wayyaahum	'I'll go with them.'
miin ma9ak	ma9aak miin	'Who is with you (m)?'
ma9ik ma9aari	ma9aaki filuus	'Do you (f) have money?'
jaay ma9i	gaay wayyaaya	'He's coming with me.'
ana wiyyaak	ana wayyaak	'you and me'

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(2) /9ind/

The Egyptian dialect inserts and stresses a vowel between the base word and suffixes which begin with a consonant.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
9índo	9áandu	'at his house'
9índha	9andáha	'at her house'
9índhum	9andúhum	'at their house'
9índak	9ándak	'at your (m) house'
9índik	9ándik	'at your (f) house'
9índkum	9andúku	'at your (p) house'
9índi	9ándi	'at my house'
9ínna	9andína	'at our house'
tfaddal la 9inna	itfaddal 9andina	'Come to our house.'
9indi 9yuuf	9andi 9uyuuf	'I have guests.'
miin 9índkum	9anduku miin	'Who is at your house?'

This word can mean 'at the home of' (like "chez" in French), or it can mean 'to have' in both dialects. The Levantine dialect also uses /il-/ to mean 'to have'.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
9indo mašaari ktiir	9andu filuus kitiir	'He has a lot of money.'
ili axx	9andi axx	'I have a brother.'
9índak fraaṭa (ṣraafe)	9andak fakka	'Do you have change?'
9índik wa't	9andik wa't	'Do you (f) have time?'

(3) /9an/

The Levantine dialect changes the base form to /9ann-/ before suffixes which begin with a vowel; the Egyptian uses the base form /9ann-/ for all persons, and inserts a vowel before suffixes which begin with a consonant.

LEVANTINE AND EGYPTIAN ARABIC

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
9ánnu	9ánnu	'about him'
9ánha	9annáha	'about her'
9ánhum	9annúhum	'about them'
9ánnak	9ánnak	'about you (m)'
9ánnik	9ánnik	'about you (f)'
9ánkum	9annúku	'about you (p)'
9ánni	9ánni	'about me'
9ánna	9annína	'about us'
smi9t 9anha	simi9t ⁱ 9annaha	'I've heard of her.'
9aarfiin 9ankum	9arfiin 9annuku	'We know of you (p).'
Hakaali 9anno	Hakaali 9annu	'He told me about it.'

(4) /min/

Both dialects use /minn-/ as the base form before adding suffixes which begin with a vowel. The Egyptian dialect may use this base for suffixes which begin with consonants as well.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
mínno	mínnu	'from him'
mínha	minnáha; mínha	'from her'
mínhum	minnúhum; mínhum	'from them'
mínnak	mínnak	'from you (m)'
mínnik	mínnik	'from you (f)'
mínkum	minnúku; mínku	'from you (p)'
mínni	mínni	'from me'
mínna	minnína	'from us'
huwwe akbar minha	huwwa akbar minnaha	'He is older than she.'
xaayif minkum	xaayif minnuku	'He is afraid of you (p).'

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This word takes a special shape when used in some environments. In Levantine, /min/ may become /mni/ when followed by a word which begins with a consonant cluster. In Egyptian, /min/ becomes /mi-/ before the definite article /il-/ in rapid speech (it is an alternate form).

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>
mni ssuu'	min issuu' (missuu') 'from the souk'
mni lmaHall	milmaHall 'from the place'

(5) /bi/ and /fi/

These prepositions are frequently used in both dialects with a wide variety of meanings. While they often may be used interchangeably with no real difference in meaning, as a matter of style the Levantine dialect tends to use /bi/ more often, whereas the Egyptian dialect uses /fi/. Some common phrases in which these prepositions are used are listed.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>
bi beetak	fi beetak 'in your house'
bi halwa'it	filwa't ⁱ da 'at that time'
bil'awwal	fil'awwil 'at first'
bil'aaxir	fil'aaxir 'at last, at the end'
xamse bilmiyye	xamsa filmiyya 'five percent'
marra bil'usbuu9	marra fil'usbuu9 'once a week'
huwwe bilbeet	huwwa filbeet 'He is at home.'
šufto bissuu'	šuftu fissuu' 'I saw him in the souk.'
naazliin	nazliin 'They are staying in the
bil'uteel	fil'uteel hotel.'
jiina bilbuusṭa	geena bil'utubiis 'We came by bus.'
	(fil'utubiis)
9indi šuyul	9andi šuyul 'I have work in the Gulf.'
bilxaliij	filxaliij
ili axx	9andi axx 'I have a brother in Saudi
bissu9uudiyye	fissu9udiyya Arabia.'

(6) /la/ (/li/)

/la/ in the Levantine dialect, /li/ in Egyptian, is used to mean 'to', 'toward'. Its use is obligatory in Levantine after a verb of motion, but it is usually omitted in this structure in Egyptian.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
ruHit la lbeet	ruHt ilbeet	'I went home.'
riji9 la beeto	rigi9 beetu	'He returned home.'
saafarna la fraan9a	safirna faran9a	'We traveled to France.'
la ween raayiH	raayiH feen	'Where are you going?'
ana jaay la 9indak	ana gaay 9andak	'I'm coming to your house.'

C. Other Words. Many of these words are auxiliary words which are frequent in occurrence and are easily misunderstood in rapid speech.

(1) 'thing'

The Levantine dialect uses the word /šii/ (/ašya/) to mean 'thing'; the Egyptian dialect uses /Haaga/(/Hagaat/). Phrases using these words are listed first.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
šii	Haaga	'something, anything'
kull šii	kull ⁱ Haaga	'everything'
ayy šii	ayy ⁱ Haaga	'anything'
wala šii	wala Haaga	'nothing'
biddak šii	9aawiz Haaga	'Do you want anything?'
ma fii šii	ma-fii-š Haaga	'There isn't anything.'
jiblo šii	giblu Haaga	'Bring him something.'
btišrab šii baarid	tišrab Haaga sa'9a*	'Would you like to drink something cold?'
šufna kull šii	šufna kull ⁱ Haaga	'We saw everything.'

*This word is used only to mean 'chilled'; the usual word for 'cold' is /bard/.

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<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
maa šufna wala šii	ma-šufnaa-š wala Haaga	'We didn't see anything at all.'
ayy šii mniiH	ayy ⁱ Haaga kwayyisa	'Anything is OK.'
štara ašya ktiire (ašya ktiir)	ištara Hagaat kitiir	'He bought many things.'

(2) 'very' 'much' 'completely'

The Levantine dialect uses /ktiir/ to mean 'very', 'much', or 'many', with adjectives and verbs. The Egyptian dialect uses /kitiir/ only to mean 'much' or 'many' after verbs and nouns, and it is not declined; Egyptian does not use this word to mean 'very'.

Both dialects use some other words for emphasis.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
saafar iktiir	saafir kitiiir	'He traveled a lot.'
ašya ktiire (ktiir)	Hagaat kitiiir	'many things'
Hilu ktiir (ktiir Hilu)	Hilw ⁱ 'awi	'very pretty'
Hilu ktiir iktiir	Hilw ⁱ giddan	'very very pretty'
	Hilw ⁱ xaališ	'extremely pretty'
beeto kbiir iktiir	beetu kibiir 'awi	'His house is very big.'
ana ta9baan iktiir	ana ta9baan giddan	'I'm very tired.'
miš zaki abadan (miš zaki bilmarra)	miš zaki abadan (miš zaki xaališ)	'He's not intelligent at all.'
nsiithum bilmarra	nisithum xaališ	'I completely forgot them.'

(3) 'like' 'similar to'

The Levantine word is /mitil/; the Egyptian word is /zayy/. Both can be suffixed with pronouns.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
mítíl šuu	zayy ⁱ éeh	'Like what?'
mítíl háyda	zayy ⁱ da	'Like that one.'
mítíilha	zayyáha	'like her'
mítíilhum	zayyúhum	'like them'

(4) 'both'

In the Levantine dialect, the numeral /tneen/ is suffixed with a pronoun. In Egyptian, it is used separately with a pronoun.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
tneenhum	humma l'itneen	'both of them'
tneenna	iHna l'itneen	'both of us'
tneenkum	intu l'itneen	'both of you'

(5) 'because'

The Levantine dialect uses the classicized word /li'ann-/ with suffixes, or the word /li'anno/ (in free variation) to mean 'because'. The Egyptian dialect uses /9ašaan/.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
raaH li'anno mista9jil	raaH 9ašaan mista9gil	'He went because he was in a hurry.'
zi9il li'anna mit'axxriin	zi9il 9ašaan iHna mit'axxariin	'He got angry because we were late.'
leeš	9ašaan eeh	'What for?'
heek	9ašaan kida	'Because of that.'

(6) 'good' 'well'

The Levantine dialect uses the word /mniiH/ (/mniiHa/, /mnaaH/) to mean 'good' or 'well'; the Egyptian dialect uses /kwayyis/ (/kwayyisa/, /kwayyisiin/). In both dialects, the masculine form is used for the adverb.

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<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
huwwe mniiH	huwwa kwayyis	'He is well.'
ilHaale mniiHa	ilHaala kwayyisa	'The situation is good.'
niHna mnaaH	iHna kwayyisiin	'We are fine.'
9imil iššuyul imniiH	9amal iššuyul kwayyis	'He did the work well.'

(7) 'like this' 'this way'

The Levantine dialect uses /heek/ to mean 'like this'; the Egyptian dialect uses /kida/.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
ruuH heek	ruuH kida	'Go that way.'
heek	kida	'Really?'
miš heek	miš kida	'Isn't that right?'
leeš heek	išmi9na kida	'Why like that?'
bafakkir heek	aftikir kida	'I think so.'
klif bit'uul heek	izzaay ti'uul kida	'How can you say that?'
heek (laheek)	9ašaan kida	'Because of that.'

(8) 'need' 'necessary' 'must'

In the Levantine dialect, the word /laazim/ may be used with pronoun suffixes to mean 'need', or with a verb to mean 'necessary'. In Egyptian, /laazim/ is not suffixed and only means 'necessary'; the active participle /miHtaag/ (/miHtaaga/, /miHtagiin/), used with the preposition /li/, is used to express 'need'.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
haada laazim	da laazim	'That is necessary.'
laazim nimšī	laazim nimšī	'We must go.'
šuu laazmak	inta miHtaag li eeh	'What do you need?'
huwwe laazmo badle jdiide	huwwa miHtaag li badla gidiida	'He needs a new suit.'

(9) 'still' 'yet'

The Egyptian dialect uses /lissa/ to mean 'still' (in affirmative sentences) and 'yet' (in negative sentences). The Levantine dialect uses this word also (often with pronoun suffixes), but more often uses /ba9d-/ (with pronoun suffixes).

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
ba9dak hoon (lissaak hoon)	inta lissa hina	'Are you still here?'
ba9dna fi lubnaan	iHna lissa fi libnaan	'We are still in Lebanon.'
ba9do maa rij19 (lissa maa rij19)	lissa ma-rigi9-š	'He hasn't come back yet.'
lissa	lissa	'Not yet.'

(10) 'just'

The Levantine dialect uses /halla'/, 'now', before a past verb to express 'just'; the Egyptian dialect uses /lissa/. (Note the difference in translation here, where /lissa/ is used with an affirmative verb, compared with the translation in the previous section where it is used with a negative verb.)

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
halla' wišil	lissa wišil	'He just arrived.'
halla' šufto	lissa šuftu	'I just saw him.'

(11) 'by oneself' 'alone'

The Levantine dialect uses both phrases /la Haal-/ and /la waHd-/ with pronoun suffixes to mean 'by oneself' or 'alone'. The Egyptian dialect uses only the phrase /li waHd-/.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
saafar la Haalo	saafir li waHdu	'He traveled alone.'
ruuH la Haalak	ruuH li waHdak	'Go by yourself.'
raaHu la waHidhum	raaHu li waHduhum	'They went by themselves.'
ajat la waHidha	gat li waHdaha	'She came alone.'

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(12) 'belonging to'

The two dialects use similar words to mean 'belonging to' or 'of'; they are in fact from the same root word but in the Egyptian dialect the consonants have been transposed.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
taba9	bitaa9	'belonging to (m)'
tab9at	bitaa9it	'belonging to (f)'
taba9iin; taba9	bituu9	'belonging to (p)'
ilbeet taba9 abuuy	ilbeet bitaa9 abuuya	'my father's house'
ilbeet taba9i	ilbeet bitaa9i	'my house'
issaa9a taba9ti	issaa9a bita9ti	'my watch'
ilkutub taba9 aHmad	ilkutub bituu9 aHmad	'Ahmad's books' (inanimate)
liwlaad taba9iini	ilwilaad bituu9i	'my children' (animate)
il'ašya taba9na	ilHagaat bitu9na	'our things' (inanimate)
il'ustaaz taba9kum	il'ustaaz bita9ku	'your (p) professor'

In the Egyptian dialect, when /bitaa9/ is followed by a pronoun which begins with /h-/ , the consonant cluster /HH/ results:

bita9ha → bitaHHa 'belonging to her'
bita9hum → bitaHHum 'belonging to them'

(This is just a pronunciation guideline; pronouncing it in the 'original' way would not interfere with comprehension.)

(13) 'for the sake of'

The Levantine dialect uses /minšaan/ or /kurmaal/ with pronoun suffixes; the Egyptian dialect uses /9ašaan/ or /9ašaan xaaṭir/.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
minšaanak; kurmaalak	9ašaan xaaṭrak; 9ašaanak	'for your (m) sake'
minšaan aHmad	9ašaan xaaṭir aHmad	'for Ahmad's sake'
minšaanha	9ašaan xaaṭirha	'for her sake'

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<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
minšaan miin	9ašaan xaaṭir miin	'for whose sake?'
9milito minšaano	9amaltu 9ašaanu	'I did it for his sake.'

(14) 'several'

The Levantine dialect uses the words /9iddat/ with a plural noun and /kam/ or /šii kam/ with a singular noun; the Egyptian dialect uses /kaza/ with a singular noun.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
9iddit marraat	kaza marra	'several times'
kam šaxis, (šii kam šaxis)	kaza waaHid	'several persons'
kam šaxis, 'aluuli heek	kaza waaHid 'alli kida	'Several persons told me that.'

(15) 'to speak'

The Levantine dialect uses the verb /Haka, byiHki/ to mean 'speak'; the Egyptian dialect uses this word only to mean 'narrate', and the verb /itkallim, biyitkallim/ to mean 'speak'.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
btihki 9arabi	bititkallim 9arabi	'Do you speak Arabic?'
ana baHki šwayy	ana batkallim šwayya	'I speak a little.'
byiHki mniiH	biyitkallim kwayyis	'He speaks well.'

(16) 'to continue' 'to keep on'

The Levantine dialect uses the verb /ḡall, byḡill/ with another verb to mean 'to continue' (doing something); the Egyptian dialect uses the verb /fiḡil, biyifiḡal/ with another verb.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
ḡall yiHki	fiḡil yitkallim	'He kept on talking.'
ḡallat tis'al as'ile	fiḡlit tis'al as'ila	'She continued asking questions.'

(17) 'right here' 'here is' 'there is'

These words are used when pointing out something (like "voici" and "voilà" in French). The Levantine word is sometimes used with pronoun suffixes.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
hayy	ahó	'here is (m)'
	ahé	'here is (f)'
	ahúm	'here are'
hayy huwwe liktaab	aho lkitaab	'[Right] here is the book.'
hayy hiyye lbint	ahé lbint	'Here is the girl; There is the girl.'
hayyhum jayyiin	ahum gayyiin	'Here, they're coming.'
hayyak hoon	aho geet	'You're here!'

D. Idioms.

Some idioms exist in one dialect or the other.

(1) 'to be able' (Levantine)

The Lebanese dialect uses /fii-/ with pronoun suffixes to express 'to be able' or 'can' with verbs. (This is mostly found in Lebanon).

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
maa fiini	m-a'dar-š	'I can't.'
fiiik ti9mal heek	ti'dar ti9mil kida	'Can you do that?'

(2) 'actually' (Egyptian)

The Egyptian dialect uses the word /ašl-/ with pronoun suffixes to mean 'actually', 'in fact'. The closest equivalents in Levantine are /ilHa'ii'a/ or /bilHa'ii'a/, which are also used in Egyptian, or /Ha'ii'atan/, a classicism.

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Levantine

Egyptian

ilHa'ii'a nsiiit	ašli nisiit	'Actually, I forgot.'
bilHa'ii'a humme miš min hoon	humma ašlúhum miš min hina	'The fact is, they're not from here.'
Ha'ii'atan huwwe majnuun	huwwa ašlu magnuun	'To tell you the truth, he's crazy.'

(3) /xalaas/ (Egyptian)

The word /xalaas/ (/xalas/ in Levantine) is used to mean 'finished' in both dialects. In Egyptian, it is also used with a verb to mean 'already'; there is no real equivalent in Levantine, except for the use of /saar/ as a helping verb in a phrase.

Levantine

Egyptian

saar raayih	raaH xalaas	'He already went.'
sirt 9aamlo	9amaltu xalaas	'I already did it.'
saaru raayHiin	xalaas mišyu	'They've already left.'

(4) /nifs-/ (Egyptian)

The Egyptian dialect uses this word, which takes pronoun suffixes, with verbs to mean 'I very much want', 'I am longing to' (do something). There is no real equivalent in Levantine.

Levantine

Egyptian

jaay 9a baali asaafir la fraanša	nifsi asaafir faranša	'I am longing to go to France.'
ana mištaa' ašuufo	nifsi ašuufo	'I'm dying to see him.'
Habbiin inruuH	nifsiina niruuH	'We really want to go.'

(5) /zamaan/ (Egyptian)

Both dialects use this word to express past time (as in /min zamaan/). The Egyptian dialect also uses this word with verbs, and the idea conveyed is rather complex. It implies that the action 'must have happened by now' or 'will happen any minute'. There is no equivalent in Levantine.

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<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
halla' jaay	zamaanu gaay	'He'll be here any minute'.
akiid bikuunu wişlu	zamanhum wişlu	'They must have arrived by now.'

(6) /ummaal/ (Egyptian)

The Egyptian dialect uses this word to mean 'sure', 'certainly', 'obviously' in a statement, or 'well', 'well then', in a question.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
walaw; lakaan	ummaal	'Obviously.'
ṭayyib šuu; lakaan šuu	ummaal eeh	'Well, what else?'
maḡluum	ummaal ṭabḡan	'But of course!'

(Note that the pronunciation of /ummaal/ has an a as in 'father', although there are no consonants in the word to account for this.)

(7) /Hadd/ (Levantine)

The word /Hadd/ may be used as a preposition, with pronoun objects, to mean 'beside'.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
saakniin Haddna (jambna)	sakniin gambína	'They live beside us.'
'aḡad Haddi (jambi)	'aḡad gambi	'He sat down beside me.'

V

SOCIAL SITUATIONS

Some social situations call for different standardized phrases or expressions, and many are exactly the same in both dialects. Only those which are different are presented here (in the masculine form).

(1) 'Hello' ... 'Hello'

Levantine

marHaba ... { marHaba
 { marHabteen
ahlan ... ahlan fiik

Egyptian

ahlan ... { ahlan
 { ahlan biik

(2) 'How are you?' ... 'Fine, thanks.'

Levantine

kiif Haalak ... { mniiH lHamdílla
kiifak ... { mabsuut
kiif šiHHtak... { lHamdílla
kiif issiHHa... { álla ysállmak
(3) 'Goodby' ... 'Goodby'

Egyptian

izzayyak ... kwayyis
izzaay issiHHa ... { ilHamdu
 { lillaah
izzaay šiHHitak...

Levantine

(person leaving)

bxaatrak ... ma9i ssalaame

(person staying)

ma9i ssalaame ... álla ysállmak

Egyptian

(person going)

sa9iida ... ma9a ssalaama

(person staying)

ma9a ssalaama ... állaah
 yisallímak

(4) 'Thanks' ... 'You're welcome.'

Levantine

šukran ... { tikram
 { (when doing a
 { favor)
mamnuunak ... { 9afwan
mamnuun ... { l9afu
mersi
mersi ktiir }

Egyptian

šukran ... { 9afwan
 { il9afw
marsii ... {
marsii 'awi ... {
šukran ... {
 gaziilan ...
alfⁱ šukr ...

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(5) Personal Titles

Levantine

(men)

ya siidi

ya ustaaz

Haḡirtak

ya mḡallim (usually lower
status)

ya xawaaja (to Christians,
esp. foreigners)

(women)

ya madaam

ya madmozeel

ya sitt

ya aanisa

Egyptian

(men)

ya siidi

ya ustaaz

ya fandim

ya beeh
Haḡrítak

siyadtak

ya usṭa (usually lower status)

ya raayis (usually lower status)

ya xawaaga (to Christians, esp.
foreigners)

(women)

ya madaam

ya mamzeel

ya sitti

ya haanim

VI

APPENDIX

A. Special Terms.

(1) Names of Months

The Levantine countries use their own names for the twelve months of the year; the Egyptian dialect uses names borrowed from English.

<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	
kaanuun taani	yanaayir	'January'
šbaat	fibraayir	'February'
'adaar	maaris	'March'
niisaan	abriil	'April'
ayyaar	maayu	'May'
Hzeeraan	yunya	'June'
tammuz	yulya	'July'
aab	ayustus	'August'
ayluul	sibtimbar	'September'
tišriin awwal	uktuubar	'October'
tišriin taani	nufimbar	'November'
kaanuun awwal	disimbar	'December'

(2) Currency Systems

Lebanon and Syria

(Units)

'irš, 'ruuš	'piastre'
liira, liiraat	'pound'

(Counting money)

xams i'ruuš	'5 piastres'
9ašar i'ruuš	'10 piastres'
rubu9 liira	'one-quarter pound'

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nuss liira	'one-half pound'
tlat tirbaa9 illiira	'three-quarters of a pound'
liira	'one pound'
liirteen	'two pounds'
tlat liiraat	'three pounds'
Hqa9š liira	'eleven pounds'

Jordan

(Units)

fils, fluus (filsaat) **	'fils'
(girš, gruuš)	'piastre'
diinaar, danaaniir	'dinar'

(Counting money)

xamse fluus (xams filsaat)	'5 fils'
(ta9riife)	('one-half piastre')
(nuss girš)	
9ašar fluus	'10 fils'
(girš)	(one piastre)
giršeen	'2 piastres'
xamse gruuš	'5 piastres'
9ašar gruuš	'10 piastres'
rubu9 diinaar	'one-fourth dinar'
(xamse w 9išriin girš)	('25 piastres')
nuss diinaar	'one-half dinar'
diinaar	'one dinar'
diinaareen	'two dinars'
tlat danaaniir	'three dinars'
iHqa9šar diinaar	'eleven dinars'

** Note: While the money units are technically "fils" and "dinar", many speakers prefer to use the words "girš" and "leera". Ten fluus = 1 girš, so a 10-fils note is called "girš", a 20-fils note is "giršeen", etc. Some persons call a "dinar" a "leera" as well.

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(Other terms)

šilin	5 piastres
bariize	10 piastres

Egypt

(Units)

'irš, 'uruuš	'piastre'
ginee, ginihaat	'pound'

(Counting Money)

malliim	'one milleme' (1/10 piastre)
itneen malliim	'two millemes'
ta9riifa	'one-half piastre'
'irš ¹ saay	'one piastre'
talat ta9riifa	'1 1/2 piastres'
'iršeen saay	'two piastres'
talaata saay	'three piastres'
9ašara saay	'ten piastres'
Hiḍaašar 'irš	'eleven piastres'
ginee	'one pound'
itneen ginee	'two pounds'
talaata ginee	'three pounds'
rub9 ¹ ginee	'one-fourth pound'
nuss ¹ ginee	'one-half pound'

(Other Terms)

šilin	5-piastre note
bariiza	10-piastre note
nikla	2 millemes

B. Glossary.

The Glossary includes some basic words (not discussed above) which are so different in the two dialects that their meaning may not be easily guessed. Some sets of words are presented by category.

1. Foods.

<u>English</u>	<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>
artichoke	arđi šooki	xaršuuŋ
bread	xubz	9eeš
cabbage	malŋuuf	karamb
chicken	jaaje (-aat); farruuŋ (frariiŋ)	farxa (firaax)
ice cream	buuza	jilaati
milk (sweet)	Haliib	laban
mustard	xardal	muštarda
peaches	durraa'	xoox
pears	injaas	kummitra
plums	xoox	bar'uu'
potato	baŋaaŋa	baŋaaŋis
shrimp	'reedis	gambari
tomato	banaduura	ŋamaaŋim; uuŋa
turkey	diik Habaš	diik ruumi
yogurt	laban	laban zabaadi

2. Household Words.

<u>English</u>	<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>
bed	farše (-aat) (fraaš)	siriir (saraayir)
closet	xazaane (-aat)	dulaab (dawaliib)
drapery	burdaaye (-aat) (baraadi)	sitaara (sataayir)
furniture	farš; 9afš	9afš; asaas

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<u>English</u>	<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>
hall, hallway	mamša (mamaaši)	ṭur'a (-aat)
plate	šaHan (šHuun)	ṭaba' (ṭubaa')
refrigerator	barraad (-aat)	tallaaga (-aat)
room	yurfe (yuraf); uuda (uwaḍ)	ooḍa (uwaḍ)
table	ṭaawle (-aat)	ṭarabeeza (-aat)
tablecloth	šaršaf (šaraašif)	mafraš (mafaariš)

3. Clothing

<u>English</u>	<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>
belt	zinnaar (znaaniir)	Hizaam (Hizima)
clothes	tyaab	hiduum
handkerchief	maHrame (maHaarim)	mandiil (manadiil)
necktie	kravaat (-aat); rabṭa (-aat)	karafatta (-aat)
overcoat	kabbuut (kababiit)	balṭu (balaati)
shoes (men's)	šubbaat (šababiit)	gazma (gizam)
shoes (women's)	skarbiine (-aat); kundara (kanaadir)	gazma (gizam)
skirt	tannuura (tanaaniir)	juub (-aat); gunalla (-aat)
slippers	šaHHaaṭa (-aat)	šibšib (šabaašib)
stockings	kalse (-aat)	šuraab (-aat)
sweater	kanza (-aat)	buluufar (-aat)

4. Other Words.

<u>English</u>	<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>
also	kamaan	kamaan; barḍuh; raaxar
always	daayman	dayman; tamalli
ashtray	manfaḍa (manaafiq)	ṭaffaaya (-aat)
bad	ḡaaṭil	wiHiš

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<u>English</u>	<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>
to begin	ballaš, biballiš	ibtada, biyibtidi
blanket	Hraam (-aat)	baṭaniyya (baṭaṭiin)
bottle	aniine (anaani)	izaaza (azaayiz)
boy	walad (wlaad); ṣabi (ṣibyaan)	walad (wilaad)
brakes (car)	freem (-aat)	farmala (faraamil)
breakfast	tirwii'a	fuṭuur
bridge	jisir (jsuura) (jusuur)	kubri (kabaari)
building	binaaye (-aat)	ḡimaara (-aat); mabna (mabaani)
butcher	laHHaam	gazzaar
car	sayyaara (-aat)	ḡarabiyya (-aat)
to catch, grab	kamaš, byikmiš	misik, biyimsik
to close	sakkar, bisakkir	'afal, biyi'fil
to cry	biki, byibki	ḡayyaṭ, biyḡayyaṭ
to curse	sabb, bisibb	šatam, biyištim
dozen	dazziine (-aat)	dasta (-aat)
ear	deene (dineen)	widn (widaan)
early	bakkiir	badri
to eat breakfast	itrawwa', byitrawwa'	fiṭir, biyifṭar
examination	faHis (fHuus)	imtiHaan (-aat); kašf (kušuuṭ)
facing, in front	'uddaam	'uddaam; 'ušaad
first	awwal	awwil; awwilaani (-yya, -yiin)
floor (of building)	ṭaabi' (ṭawaabi')	door (adwaar)
gate	bawwaabe (-aat)	baab (abwaab)
heat (weather)	šoob	Harr
hot (weather)	mišwib; šoob	Harr
hotel	uteel (-aat)	uteel (-aat); lukanda (-aat)

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<u>English</u>	<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>
to hurry	rawwaj, birawwij; ista9jal, byista9jil	ista9gal, biyista9gil
last	aaxir	aaxir; axraani (-yya, -yiin)
to leave (behind)	tarak, byutruk	saab, biysiib
leg	ijir (ijreen)	rigl (rigleen)
letter	maktuub (makaatiib)	gawaab (-aat)
money	maṣaari	filuus
mouth	timn	bu''
newspaper	jariide (jaraayid)	gurnaal (garaayid)
now	halla'	dilwa'ti
of course	ma9luum; ṭab9an	ṭab9an
paint	booya; dhaan	buuya
pink	zahri	bamba
pitcher	brii' (abaarii')	abrii' (abarii') šafša' (šafaaši')
place	makaan (amaakin); maHall (-aat)	makaan (amaakin); Hitta (Hitat)
to rain	šattat, bitšatti	maṭṭarīt, bitmaṭṭar
round trip	rooHa raj9a	raayiH gayy
salary	ma9aaš (-aat); raatib (-aat)	maHiyya (-aat)
sick	mariiq (muraqa)	9ayyaan (-iin)
swimming pool	birkit isbaaHa	Hammaam sibaaHa
telephone call	muxaabara (-aat)	mukalma (-aat)
tire	duulaab (dwaliib)	kawitš (-aat)
traffic	seer	muruur
traffic signal	wijhit isseer	išaara (-aat)
vacation	furṣa (furaṣ)	agaaza (-aat)

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<u>English</u>	<u>Levantine</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>
wallet	juzdaan (jzadiin)	maHfaẓa (maHaafiẓ)
to watch	raa'ab, biraa'ib; itfarraj, byitfarraj (9ala)	itfarrag, biyitfarrag (9ala)
where from	min ween	min feen; mineen
woman	mara*(niswaan)*	sitt (-aat)
yes	aywa; ee na9am	aywa; aah

C. Variable Words in Dialects.

The Arabic dialects have tended to develop more different vocabulary words in some areas than others. Some words are different in nearly every dialect. With experience, you can predict the words which are more likely to have new forms, and you will save time and effort by identifying them early. For your guidance, here is a list of some of the words which vary the most widely.

Nouns

(foods)	cigarette	wallet	carry	think
(eating utensils)	closet		close	want
(furniture)	corner	<u>Adjectives</u>	do	work
(clothing)	eyeglasses	bad	fight	
(money terms)	fan	early	fill	
(rooms)	farm	good	find	
ashtray	garden	near	finish	
baggage	gun	ready	give	
barber	letter	sick	hurry	
basket	matches	tired	look at	
blanket	office	well (health)	open	
bottle	tire		shave	
bridge	towel	<u>Verbs</u>	sleep	
brush	umbrella	ask	speak	
car	wages	become	take	

* These words are insults in Egyptian.

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Time Words

today

yesterday

tomorrow

last _____

next _____

(Prepositions)

(Demonstrative Pronouns)

(Question Words)

Other Words

(negative words)

future tense marker

progressive marker

(personal titles)

afterwards

also

although

always

because

here

if (two kinds)

in order to

much

nothing

now

of (belonging to)

OK

quickly

right away

same

similar to

slowly

still, yet

straight ahead

then

there

there is, there is not

very

yes